TN (2008) and the previous CSNA from NC (2006) were reviewed (see Appendix A). All eight state's reports were available either on line or by request. The common areas of recommendations are: staffing concerns (AL, FL, GA, and NC), service delivery (AL, FL, GA, KY and MS), assistive technology availability (AL and KY), delivery of employment related services (AL, FL and SC), collaboration with other agencies (GA, MS, and NC), improve communication (NC, SC, and TN), and other recommendations (AL, FL, KY, and NC).

The purpose of this CSNA is to provide information about persons who are blind or visually impaired and their need for services. The results of the CSNA will be used by DSB and the SRC to plan for existing service needs. In addition the CSNA identifies unmet needs of individuals/minorities, who are unserved, underserved, who need education and training, and who are served by other agencies, thereby identifying the need for policy and procedural revisions or changes in service provision. The six specific questions addressed in this CSNA are:

1. What are the demographic trends of persons who are blind or visually impaired?
2. Who are the unserved and underserved populations of persons who are blind or visually impaired?
3. What is the prevalence and trends of vision loss?
4. What are the differences in employment outcomes of clients who are blind or visually impaired from different racial/ethnic backgrounds (e.g., White, Black or African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino)?
5. What transportation is available for persons who are blind or visually impaired?
6. What are current and needed programs and services for person who are blind or visually impaired?

Methods

This CSNA used a mixed methods approach that included the following: literature review, interviews with stakeholders, focus groups with clients, and four surveys. The NC DSB is one of the states designated to field test *The VR Needs Assessment Guide*